GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:407
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001
THREAT BY BANGADESH RIFLES
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Indian villages bordering Bangladesh have been threatened to leave the villages by Bangladesh rifles;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the fencing along the Indian border with Bangladesh is likely to be made, particularly those village which are under the constant threat from the other side;

(d) if so, the details in this regards; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the lives and properties of persons living in the bordering areas of Bangladesh ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)&(b): There has been one instance in recent months when Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) threatened villagers to vacate their houses in the areas held in adverse possession of India. At the time of joint verification of boundary pillar by Bangladesh Rifles and Border Security Force on 17 June 2001 in the village Char Meghna district Nadia, West Bangal, which is under adverse possession of India, the Bangladesh Rifles personnel while returning to their outpost are reported to have asked some residents to vacate the village within 10 days. The BSF lodged a strong protest with BDR and a flag meeting was heldAdditional troops were deployed to patrol the area round the clock to instill a sense of security in the minds of the villagers.

(c) & (d): Fencing of the border with Bangladesh is being implemented in a phased manner. In the first phase fencing of Indo-Bangladesh border measuring 857 kms was approved out of which an area of 852 kms has already been fenced. For phase II, Government have approved fencing of 2429 kms of the border. Work on this is underway.

(e): Government of India has taken a series of measures including raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine borders, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments etc. to protect the lives and properties of people living in the border areas of Bangladesh.